

August 18, 1940



AT FEDERAL COURT, THE JURY HAS JUST RETURNED AND GIVEN ITS VERDICT OF GUILTY AGAINST BLACK MORGER, NOTORIOUS CRIMINAL. THE JUDGE IS PRONOUNCING THE SENTENCE



THE EXECUTION NIGHT MIGHT HAVE PASSED UNNOTICED, BUT FOR A STRANGE SCENE THAT TOOK PLACE IN AN OLD STONE COTTAGE ON A HILL OVERLOOKING THE JAIL. . . . BLACK MORGER'S WIFE AND FOUR CHILDREN ARE GATHERED BEFORE THE FIREPLACE. . . . LET'S LISTEN IN.





SWEAR... THAT ON THE THIRTEENTH DAY OF OCTOBER, TWENTY FIVE YEARS FROM NOW, YOU WILL GATHER IN THIS HOUSE AND KILL THE FOUR PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR FATHER'S DEATH!



AS SHE FINISHES, THE BELL IN THE PRISON TOWER TOLLS, ANNOUNCING THAT THE EXECUTION IS COMPLETE. AT THAT MOMENT THE OLD WOMAN STAGGERS AND SINKS INTO A CHAIR.

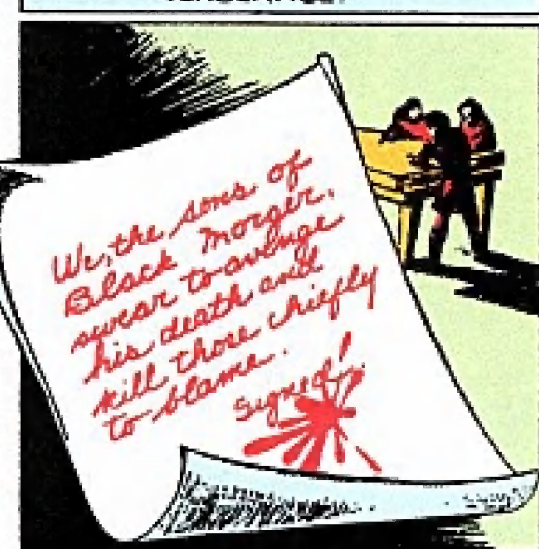


SHE'S DEAD!

DIED, JUST AS THE BELL SOUNDED!



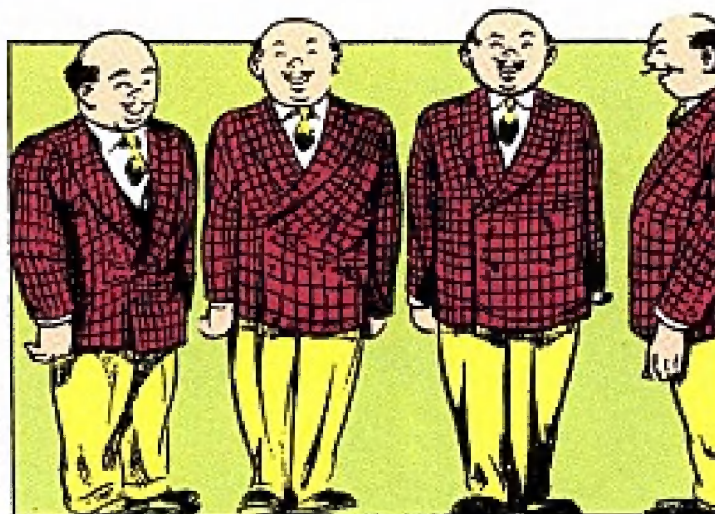
AND BY THE LIGHT OF THE FIRE IN THE HEARTH, EACH BROTHER SIGNS HIS NAME IN HIS OWN BLOOD TO AN OATH OF DEADLY VENGEANCE.



THE YEARS PASS... THE WORLD HAS LONG FORGOTTEN THE NAME OF BLACK MORGER. ON OCTOBER THIRTEENTH, TWENTY FIVE YEARS LATER, IN THE SAME HOUSE,



THE FOUR BROTHERS MEET. EACH LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THE OTHER.



THEY GATHER BEFORE THE SAME FIRE-PLACE.



WE ARE PLEDGED TO AVENGE OUR FATHER'S DEATH. I SHALL READ THE NAMES OF OUR VICTIMS... I HAVE KEPT A RECORD OF THEM!



"MUTTSY" WATSON, THE THUG WHO SQUEALED ON HIM... ABNER CODGER, THE MAN WHO BROUGHT CHARGES AGAINST HIM... JUDGE WILSON... THE JUDGE DIED TWO YEARS AGO, SO WE'LL GET HIS DAUGHTER... AND EGGEL WEEKS THE EXECUTIONER!



I HAVE THEIR ADDRESSES. WE'LL LEAVE AND RETURN WITH THEM! THEY WILL PAY WITH THEIR LIVES!



AS THE MEN LEAVE, EACH GOING IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION, A STRANGE THING OCCURS. THE HEAD OF THE OLD WOMAN SEEMS TO LOOM IN THE MIST ABOVE THE HOUSE...





IN THE CITY, AT THE HOME OF ABNER CODGER, SEVERAL HOURS LATER.





RECKLESSLY, THE SPIRIT STARTS FORWARD. ANOTHER MAN STEPS INTO THE ROOM.



AH, BROTHER, YOU HAVE RELIEVED A QUITE DIFFICULT SITUATION... COME, CODGER!



AND LEAVING THE SPIRIT UNCONSCIOUS ON THE FLOOR, THEY CARRY ABNER CODGER OUT



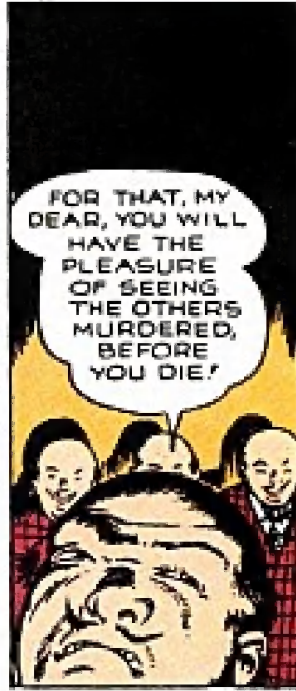
THAT NIGHT, A LIGHT GLOWS IN THE TINY STONE COTTAGE. THE BROTHERS PREPARE TO FULFILL THEIR PLEDGE.



YOU'RE NOT SO BRAVE WITHOUT YOUR GANG. EH, MUTTSY?

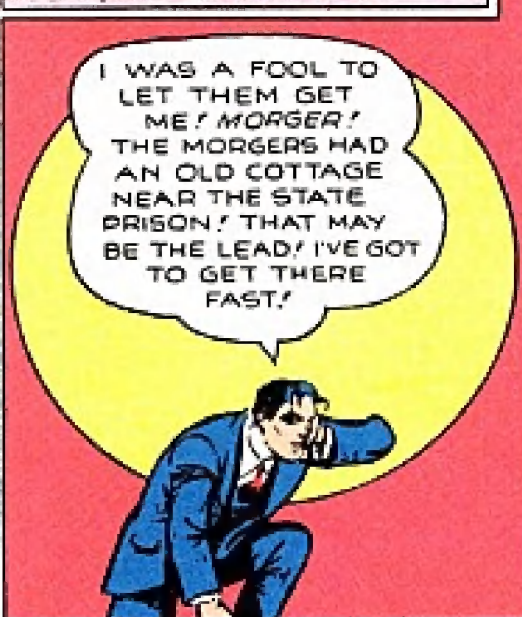


YOU BEAST!

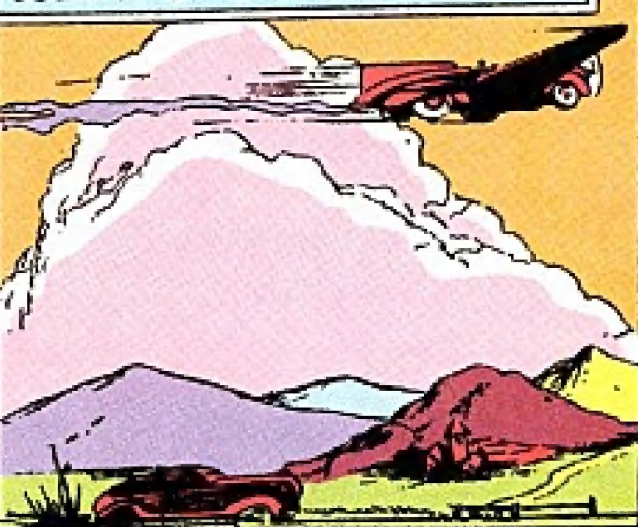


FOR THAT, MY DEAR, YOU WILL HAVE THE PLEASURE OF SEEING THE OTHERS MURDERED, BEFORE YOU DIE!

MEANWHILE, BACK AT CODGER'S HOUSE, THE SPIRIT RECOVERS.



SOON THE SPIRIT'S AUTOPLANE IS ROARING THROUGH THE NIGHT, RACING AGAINST TIME. FAR BELOW ON THE HIGHWAY, A CAR SPEEDS IN THE SAME DIRECTION. IN IT ARE COMMISSIONER DOLAN AND INSPECTOR FINNEGAN.



WE'VE ONLY A POOR CLUE TO GO ON. EXECUTIONER WEEKS HAS BEEN MISSING TWENTY-FOUR HOURS! HE WAS REPORTED ON THIS ROAD WITH A BALD HEADED MAN!





AT THE MORGER HOUSE.





WITH A ROAR, THE **SPIRIT** ZOOMS ALOFT IN HIS AUTOPLANE.



CIRCLING OVER THE HOUSE, HE SUDDENLY PRESSES A LEVER AND THE WINGS SLIDE IN...



THAT WOOD ROOF IS ROTTED... I'M IN LUCK!

MOSING OVER, HE GLIDES TO A DIVE.

